

The 2014 Competition:

Thursday evening, March 27, 2014

Judging begins at 7:00 pm

DNERR, THE ST. JONES RESERVE

818 KITTS HUMMOCK ROAD, DOVER, DE 19901

PHONE (302) 739-3436

Entries must be postmarked by March 15, 2014

and mailed to:

Dawn Webb

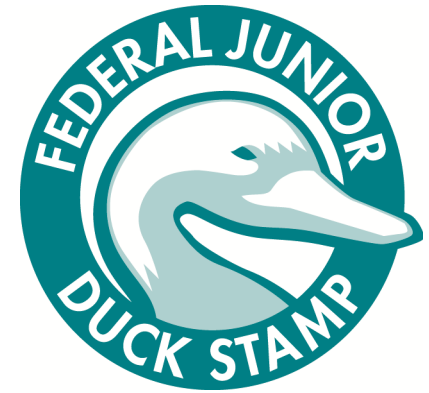
DuPont Nature Center

2992 Lighthouse Road

Milford, DE 19963

(302) 422-1329

Dawn.Webb@state.de.us

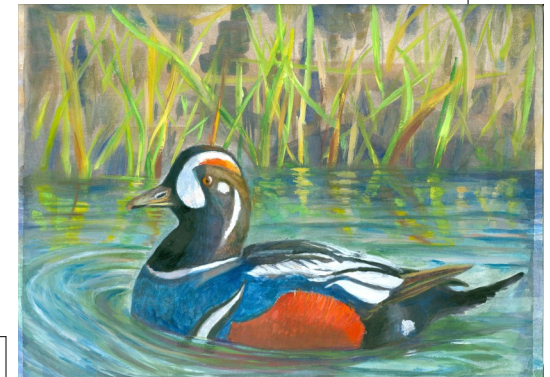


THE DELAWARE JUNIOR DUCK STAMP PROGRAM



Today more than 28,000 students throughout the United States, American Samoa, and the U.S. Virgin Islands submit entries to a state or territory JDS Contest. The program's success is due to partnerships with Federal and State government agencies, nongovernmental organizations, private businesses, and volunteers who have helped to recognize and honor thousands of teachers and students throughout the United States for their participation in conservation related activities.

Above: Elizabeth Vander Laan from Greenville won First Place in Group IV, and Best of Show with her artwork titled Cruising Downstream.



2013 Best of Show by Elizabeth Vander Laan



Conservation Through the Arts

The Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program (JDS) was started in 1990 and modeled after the Federal Duck Stamp contest. It is a dynamic arts curriculum that teaches wetlands and waterfowl conservation to students in kindergarten through high school. The program incorporates scientific and wildlife management principles into a visual arts curriculum with participants completing a JDS design as their visual “term papers”.

Delaware

Bill Whitman, a wildlife biologist (now retired) for the Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife learned about the Federal Junior Duck Stamp Program in Anchorage, Alaska during the 1993 North American Wildlife and Natural Resource Conference. Because of his love for waterfowl and educational programming, he presented the idea to Director Andy Manus with the hopes of implementing the program in Delaware. Director Manus agreed, and JDS became part of the Aquatic Resources Education program in 1993. The first Delaware Competition was held in 1994.



Preparation for the Junior Duck Stamp contest and involvement in the program requires students to think about and understand at least the fundamental principles of anatomy and environmental science and can be a valid barometer of a student's grasp of these topics.



The program also provides an opportunity for students to learn science and express their knowledge of the beauty, diversity, and interdependence of wildlife artistically. In fact, preparation for the program often includes a visit to a National Wildlife Refuge- a prime location for not only observation of our nation's wildlife, but also for experimentation and hands on experiences in hundreds of visitor centers located within the refuges.

The Delaware JDS program begins each winter when educators attend training on the curriculum. They implement the program in their classrooms and students then submit their artwork to the contest.

They are judged in four groups according to grade level: Group I: K-3, Group II: 4-6, Group III: 7-9, and Group IV 10-12. Three first, second and third place entries are selected for each group. A “Best of Show” is selected by a panel of judges from the twelve first-place winners regardless of their grade group. Delaware's Best of Show is then submitted to the Federal Duck Stamp Office and entered into the national Junior Duck Stamp Contest. To further the interdisciplinary underpinnings of the program, students are now encouraged, but not required, to include a conservation message on their entry form with their art design. The conservation message is judged in Delaware and at the national level for Best of Show winners. The message explains something the student has learned about wetlands habitat, conservation or waterfowl. It may also be a statement used to encourage others to participate in conservation.

To learn more about implementing the JDS program with youth, visit:

<http://www.fws.gov/juniorduck>

